

September 2013

## 2013/2014 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) Catch up Campaign

Dear Parents / Legal Guardians,

There have been large outbreaks of measles in Ireland and Europe in the past two years. These outbreaks have occurred because many young people have not received the recommended **two doses of MMR** vaccine.

In 2013/2014 school year the HSE is offering a dose of MMR vaccine to schoolchildren **who have not completed (or are not sure they have completed) their two dose MMR vaccination schedule** to protect them from measles mumps and rubella:

- children in Senior Infants to Sixth Class in primary school
- children in First Year of second level school who were in Sixth Class in 2012/2013.

This catch up campaign will be delivered from September 2013 in primary and second level schools or in some cases at HSE clinics.

Please read the enclosed information sheet to find out more about measles, mumps and rubella and why it is important to be protected against these serious contagious diseases.

MMR vaccine can be safely given at the same time as other vaccines such as HPV (human papillomavirus) and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough/pertussis) vaccines for children in First Year of second level schools. If you give consent for two vaccines the student will receive a vaccine in each arm.

Parents/legal guardians should sign the enclosed consent form to give your consent for vaccination. Please make sure you return the signed consent form to school or HSE clinic before the day the vaccinations will take place.

You can find out more at [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

Yours sincerely



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